

***DRONFIELD***  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the  
**HEALTH OF DRONFIELD**  
**FOR 1920.**

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BY  
**O. H. HUDSON, M.R.C.S.**  
**Medical Officer of Health.**

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DRONFIELD:  
A. A. RYDER, PRINTER, PRINCESS BUILDINGS,  
1921.

1920.

## Summary of Report.

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### **DRONFIELD URBAN COUNCIL.**

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Area : 1046 acres.

Population : (census, 1901) 3,809 ; (census, 1911) 3,943.

Estimated Population 1920. 4,338.

Number of occupied Houses : 1911, 944 ; 1920, 996.

Rateable Value : £14,995 4s. 0d. Assessable Value £12,787 2s. 6d.

General District Rate, 9s. 6d. in the £.

Poor Rate 9s. on Buildings and 4s. 6d. on Agricultural Land.

### **Vital Statistics.**

Birth Rate per 1,000, 25·12.

Death Rate per 1,000, 14·29.

Infantile Mortality (Deaths under one year) per 1,000 Births, 110.

#### *Water Supply :—*

Source of Supply :—Moorland Water from Chesterfield Rural  
Sanitary Authority's Mains.

*Scavenging and Refuse Disposal :—* By Council's own Carts and Work-  
men.

# Dronfield Urban District Council.

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## *ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH OF DRONFIELD FOR 1920.*

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DRONFIELD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in laying before you my Twentieth Annual Report of the Health of the Dronfield Urban District.

**Physical Features and General Character of the District.**—The District lies to the South of Sheffield, and is wholly surrounded by the Chesterfield Rural Sanitary District. It has an area of 1,046 acres, none of which is covered by water. It is hilly in character, and the soil is carboniferous. The chief industries are coal-mining, iron founding, malleable castings, and edge-tool making.

**The Population** at the census of 1911 was 3,943. The number of private families were 939 with a percentage of 2·31 of overcrowded tenements. The increase of inhabitants over the census of 1901 being 106. The estimated population to the middle of 1920 is 4,338, and the number of inhabited houses is 996. The rateable value of the District is £14,295/4/-, and the Assessable value is £12,737/2/6. The General District Rate was 9s. 6d., and the amount of the Poor Law Relief during the year was £744/4/-.

**The Births** registered belonging to the District were 109, viz :—58 males and 51 females, of whom 3 were illegitimate viz :—2 males and 1 female the annual rate being equal to 25·12 per 1,000.

**The Deaths** registered belonging to the District were 62, giving an annual rate of 14·20. The average rate for the whole County is 11·81.

**Infantile Deaths** (Death under one year). There were 12 deaths from infants under one year, which is equal to an annual rate of 110·10 per 1,000 births registered. There were no deaths of illegitimate children. The causes of death were as follows :—Broncho-Pneumonia 4 ; Measles 1 ; Bronchitis 1 ; Congenital Debility 3 ; Convulsions 2 ; Enteritis 1.

## Sanitary circumstances of the District.

**Water.** The water supply of the whole District is supplied by the Chesterfield Rural Sanitary Authority's mains, except one house which is supplied by a surface well. The water is moorland water, and is plumbo-solvent in character, and in the past has been the source of much lead poisoning in the District, but owing to the fact that the Northern Water Board having put down percolating and alkaline filters to remove all peat and acid matter there have been no cases reported the last few years.

**Drainage and Sewerage.** The outfall works are maintained in an efficient manner. The methods of disposal are by precipitation and percolating filters. The works have been inspected from time to time, and the affluent has been found satisfactory. Out of 996 houses, there are only 61 which are not in the drainage area. These are all scattered houses on the outskirts of the District and are served by sumps, which are regularly cleared out by servants of the Council.

**Excrement Disposal.** There are 996 occupied houses served with the following conveniences viz :—584 privy middens, 399 water closets, and 13 slop closets. It has been the policy of your Council to convert the privy middens into water closets and previous to the war, 50 many were converted each year but during the war, owing to shortage of labour and materials, the conversion has been much delayed. It is now time that the conversion should be much accelerated. The death rate is much above the average of the whole County,



and the insanitary condition of the old privy midden should be done away with. The unsettled state of the finances of the cottage property owners help to make the financial burden heavier, 19 privy middens have been converted during the year.

**Scavenging.** The population for which there is public scavenging is 4,338. The whole work is done by the servants of the District Council at an estimated cost of 12/- per house inclusive of administrative charges. There are no details as to costs between privies and water closets. The middens are emptied regularly, in some cases every week, and in others at longer intervals, according to circumstances. The work is done in the early mornings especially in the main thoroughfares.

**Sanitary Inspections of the District.** The number of visits made to premises were 127. The defects and nuisances discovered were 76, for which 37 informal notices, and 54 statutory notices were served. There were 60 nuisances abated with or without notices. There were 45 notices served for conversion of privies into water closets and 2 notices for further closet accommodation.

Premises and occupations which are controlled by Bye-Laws in force in the District which were passed in August 1907, are Slaughter-houses 7. Number of occupations--Butcher 1.

There is only one Lodging House in the District under the Bye-Laws passed by the Local Government Board 1893. This house has been inspected 5 times. It has always been found in a clean condition.

**Medical Inspections of School Buildings & Children.** The school buildings and conveniences have been systematically inspected during the year. The Medical inspection of school children has been carried out by the County Authorities. In all cases of notifiable disease, when children are attending school, the head teachers are notified, and children from infected houses are excluded, until the house and clothing have all been disinfected by your Inspector, and all further danger of infection has been reduced to a minimum.

**Food. Milk Supply.** There are nine cowkeepers on the register owning approximately 50 cows. There are nine cowhouses which have been inspected 22 times. The cowsheds were found satisfactory. The cubic air space for each cow in the cowsheds is from 500 to 800 cubic feet.

The number of inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, were 34.

There are no special arrangements made for meat inspection but the slaughter-houses are visited and inspected systematically and without warning, and have always been found in a sanitary condition.

**Housing.** There are 996 houses in the District, out of this number 843 houses are for the working classes. No new houses have been erected during the year, or are in course of erection. In common with the rest of the country there is a shortage of house accommodation the majority of the working classes are occupied outside the District.

There are a lot of old houses built previous to the Building Regulations being in force, which are affected by dampness, owing to absence of damp courses. Steps are being taken to remedy these as far as possible.

**Zymotic Diseases.** The following cases of notifiable Infectious Disease were notified during the year, viz :—Diphtheria, 10 ; Scarlet Fever, 4 ; Pneumonia, 2 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Phthisis, 6 ; Tubercular Diseases 2.

After receiving notification of any infectious disease, the house is at once visited by your Inspector, and enquiries made, and disinfectants supplied free of cost, after receiving notice from the Medical Attendant that the case has recovered, and is free from further infection, the room, bedding, clothing, and all utensils are thoroughly stoved with Formalin Vapour, and full instructions given to prevent further infection. The number of deaths due to Zymotic Disease, were 8 viz :—Measles, 3 ; Diphtheria, 2 ; Influenza, 1 ; Phthisis, 2 ; giving an annual rate of 1·84.

**Measles.** This is not notifiable now, but there were a

number of cases occurring during April, May—with three deaths giving an annual rate of .69 per 1,000.

**Diphtheria.** There were 10 cases notified, they were spread over the year, one being in February, three cases in June, two in July, one in August, and three in September. There were two deaths, both occurring in June. It is the practice of your Council to provide free of cost Antitoxin in all cases of Diphtheria.

**Scarlet Fever.** There were four cases of Scarlet Fever notified, one in February, March, May and August respectively. All the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the houses stoved and disinfected.

**Pneumonia.** Only two cases were notified, but from the death returns there were 11 cases due to Pneumonia in all forms, which should have been notified. This is equal to an annual rate of 2.53.

**Erysipelas.** Only one case was notified which was of a mild character.

**Phthisis.** There were 6 cases of Phthisis notified. They were all treated at the T.B. Dispensary and Sanitorium, and all were regularly visited by the T.B. Inspector. There were two deaths, which is equal to an annual rate of .46. After receiving notice of death, the house and bedding are thoroughly stoved and disinfected.

**General Tubercular Disease.** Two cases were notified, viz :—one of the Cervical Glands, and the other of the Skin, both cases were treated at the T.B. Dispensary.

**Respiratory Diseases.** There were 13 deaths from Bronchitis, which is equal to an annual rate of 2.99.

**Malignant Disease.** There were 5 deaths from Cancer, which is equal to a an annual rate of 1.15.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**O. H. HUDSON.**



# Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

## DRONFIELD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Name of Inspector :—T. H. ATKINSON.

Area of District 1,046 acres.

Estimated No. of Houses 996

New Houses erected 1920, NIL.

### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING—

Number of Houses inspected under Section 17	..	..	43
Number unfit for Habitation	..	..	Nil.
Representations made to Local Authority as to Closing Orders	..	..	Nil.
Number Closed	..	..	Nil.
Number Demolished	..	..	Nil.
Number Repaired Voluntarily	..	..	15

### DRAINAGE—

	Informal Notices served by Nuisance Inspector	Legal Notices served by Local Authority	Nuisances abated
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	.. 1		1
Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains	.. 5	2	7
Drains obstructed	.. 10		10

### CLOSETS AND ASHPITS—

Additional Closet Accommodation	.. 2	2	
Conversion of Privies into W. C's	..	45	19

### OTHER DEFECTS—

Paving of Courts and Yards	.. 2		2
Eaves-Spouts and Down Spouts	.. 6		6
Offensive Accumulations	.. 2		2
Water in Cellars	.. 1		1
Foul Condition of Houses	.. 2	1	2
Nuisances not specified above	.. 6	4	10
Totals	.. 37	54	60

	Number on Register	Inspections made	Notices served	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	.. 9	22		
Bakehouses	.. 4	8		
Slaughterhouses	.. 8	26		
Common Lodging-houses	.. 1	5		
Totals	.. 22	61		

Infected Rooms Disinfected, 28.

Method—Formalin Vapour.

Food Voluntarily Surrendered, One box of Fish, same condemned and destroyed.

### HOUSING.

1.	No. of Houses reported to the Housing Commissioner as being required	.. 40
2.	the District Council has decided to erect	.. 40
3.	for the building of which Contracts have been accepted	None.
4.	(A) in course of erection	.. None.
	(B) Completed	.. None.
	(C) Occupied	.. None.

(Signed) T. H. ATKINSON.